



SPACE CENTER
Roundup

SPECIAL 9/11 EDITION LYNDON B. JOHNSON SPACE CENTER HOUSTON, TEXAS SEPTEMBER 2002



JOHNSON SPACE CENTER
Remember 9/11



over to cover, this 9/11 commemorative issue is gripping, raw and powerful. From the beautiful artwork by David M. Russell to the touching poem by Rayfael Roman to the numerous heartfelt submissions, this issue is a beautiful tribute to the strength of our country and our country's people.

This issue simply began as a way for members of the Johnson Space Center family to express their feelings regarding the tragedy. However, it immediately took on a life of its own and has since grown to be so much more than initially envisioned.

To complete the package, space shuttle images were selected to backdrop much of the issue. The shuttle was chosen because it is a distinct NASA icon. In our country, NASA is an example of our people's strength, dedication, ingenuity and drive.

However, the symbolism runs even deeper. Every time the space shuttle launches, the power is undeniable. The space shuttle is strong, bold and relentless. After 9/11, our country didn't give up, even in its darkest hour. Instead, Americans stood up to adversity. We too have been strong, bold and relentless.

This issue is but one example of the grit and determination our country has put forth in the past year.



FROM THE DESK OF LT. GEN. JEFFERSON D. HOWELL, JR.

Much has been said and written about the horrible events of September eleventh, Two Thousand and One, and its aftermath. My own emotions regarding this event are like so many others: Feelings of horror, shock, sorrow, helplessness, anger and desire for revenge.

Now, on the first anniversary of that awful day, I am challenged to give appropriate remarks in commemoration of that event. Frankly, I don't know what to say.

However, I do know what you and I should do: We must carry on!

We at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, part of the great NASA Team, have the good fortune of being part of one of the greatest enterprises in the history of humankind. Our present activities in advanced engineering, scientific research and human space exploration are the total antithesis to what the perverted men who brought about the terrorist attacks were trying to do.

I believe we can best honor the memory of the innocent victims of those attacks by rededicating ourselves to pursuing the very highest in professional excellence and total commitment to achieving the goals that support our vision and mission. If we succeed, our nation succeeds. If our nation succeeds, the terrorists fail.

How blessed we are to be part of this noble endeavor! I know you will do your share.

CARRY ON! 

*Another day commencing ...
Routine shattered to the wind,
Thousands of screams echoing through our hearts,
My home now brutally scarred.
Fear at an all time high,
Tears shed and shattered,
Will tomorrow ever come?
Now united, the nation stands
Bonded, thick as thieves,
Precious recognition.*

9 - 11

Burned in our minds, forever.

By Rayfael Roman

Rayfael Roman, a GHG Corporation Software Safety Engineer in SR&QA at Johnson Space Center, wrote this poem after 9/11. "I think the impact was greater for me than most people because I was born and raised in New York City. My family is still there," Rayfael said.



NASA JSC 2001e44517 Photo by Robert Markowitz

A. Mission Control held a moment of silence concurrent with a ceremony aboard STS-108 on Dec. 11, 2001, which was the three-month anniversary of the terrorist attacks.

B. IMPASS contractor Sean Collins, graphics lead, helped attach the flags flown aboard STS-108 to certificates designed by the JSC Graphics and Publications Department.

C. JSC Cooperative Education students inserted the flags and certificates into envelopes with a letter of support from Administrator O’Keefe. The packets were sent to the Office of the Mayor of the City of New York; and, on June 17, 2002, they were mailed to the families of the victims.



NASA JSC 2002e02320 Photo by Bill Stafford

Flags for Heroes and Families

NASA honored the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks by sending nearly 6,000 small U.S. flags into orbit as part of the “Flags for Heroes and Families” campaign aboard Space Shuttle *Endeavour* during STS-108.

Once the flags returned to Earth, members of the Johnson Space Center team assembled packets containing the flags. The packets were later given to the survivors and the families of the victims of the attacks in New York City, the Pentagon and United Airlines Flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania.

“The tradition of carrying American flags into space dates back to the very beginning of this historic Agency,” said NASA Administrator Sean O’Keefe. “From the surface of the Moon to the uncharted regions of our galaxy, NASA has flown the American flag as a patriotic symbol of truth, honor and justice.” 



NASA JSC 2002e23346 Photo by Robert Markowitz

Crossing paths with danger

During a routine work assignment, Johnson Space Center’s Dominic “Dom” Del Rosso crossed paths with an American tragedy.

For this special issue, the Test Director aboard the KC-135 shared a letter he wrote. It details his experiences of flying in NASA’s Weightless Wonder over the shores of New York on Sept. 11, 2001.

“Yesterday still seems unreal. Being in the air over western New York at the time of the attacks was something I will always remember,” wrote Del Rosso in the letter dated Sept. 12, 2001.

During a routine reduced-gravity mission over Lake Ontario, the KC-135 cruised back and forth along the New York shore. The mission of climbing and descending creates a freefall condition to simulate microgravity.

“To think that this type of maneuver might ever seem threatening never crossed my mind until yesterday,” Del Rosso wrote. “Many things have changed since yesterday.”

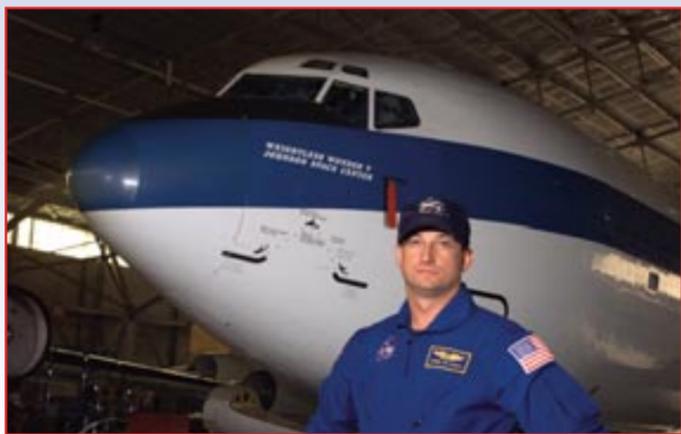
On that Sept. 11 morning, the crew was advised that a large plane was intersecting their flight path less than a thousand feet below their aircraft, instead of the usual 2,000-foot minimum distance. They later learned the plane was hijacked United Airlines Flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania.

“After the unwanted flyby, we landed having no idea why or what was going on,” Del Rosso wrote.

Once news began trickling in, the people on board began to assess the situation in a new light. Del Rosso was worried about his friends and family, especially his sister in Manhattan who was going to the World Trade Center that day. Luckily, he later learned all were safe.

That day’s events were like no other for Del Rosso. “I will never forget the unprecedented complete silence of the air traffic control radios, empty runways, locked gates, roadblocks and, of course, our first look at the devastation of our country on television much later that day,” he wrote.

He concluded his letter with: “I am so thankful that I live in the U.S. and have had all the blessings that go along with that.” 



NASA JSC 2002e33640 Photo by David DeHoyos

Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the Roundup published an issue focusing on JSC’s reaction to the national tragedy. Featured in that issue was the powerful photograph that is pictured here. The image was so striking it was chosen as the inspiration for artist David M. Russell’s cover artwork for this special issue. The man featured in that photograph is Jerry Woodfill, a Technical Manager’s Representative in the Automation, Robotics and Simulation Division. For this issue, he wanted to share the story behind the photograph.

By Jerry Woodfill

“You are invited to attend the Johnson Space Center noon prayer service for the victims of the attack on America” was the e-mail message received Friday morning, Sept. 14, 2001.

The designated site, beneath the American flag near the NASA Road One entrance, was often chosen for commemorative meetings.

Memories returned of the 1987 *Challenger* anniversary fly over held there. I could almost hear the deafening roar of those low-flying T-38 jets, piloted by astronauts in honor of their fallen friends.

Reaching still further back another score of years, I recalled a similar gathering for Gus Grissom, Ed White and Roger Chaffee of the Apollo 1 accident. They, like those who died on September 11th, were taken from us so suddenly and tragically.

I’d recently recreated President John F. Kennedy’s Rice Stadium Moon Race Speech at the annual JSC Open House. As a Rice student, I’d been present on that day, Sept. 12, 1962.

The purpose of the open house dramatization was to inspire youth as I had been inspired so long ago. The American flag used as the speech’s backdrop remained in my office.



NASA JSC 2001e26828 Photo by David DeHoyos

Patriotism speaks of “the Voice of America” and “the Spirit of America” as vague terms describing our nation’s strengths. But at 11:45 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 14, 2001, I heard the Spirit of America’s voice. It said in my mind, “Jerry, I am telling you to march across the Space Center with that flag held high for all to see!”

Immediately, I argued: “But everyone will see me and think me strange.”

And the voice countered: “That’s exactly what I want everyone to see.”

It then added: “Just to assure you this is me, toss a coin – heads you go with my flag, tails leave it here.”

Of course, I found exactly one coin – a Jefferson nickel. Catching the flip in my left hand, I slapped it down on the back of my right hand. Heads it was! When I looked closer it said, IN GOD WE TRUST. There was no question whose Spirit was speaking and, likewise, whose was the Voice of America.

I burst onto the NASA site with the flag held high. What I felt is too wonderful for description. Certainly those soldiers on Iwo Jima felt it, Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin felt it at Tranquility Base and millions of Americans have felt it since September 11th, joining those who felt it that Dec. 7th of 1941 when Pearl Harbor was bombed.

Tears flowed freely as I half ran and half walked to the prayer service, but the voice said, “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.” 

How did 9/11 touch your life?

My thoughts instantly directed to my two young sons. Questions they might have: What would they know, understand, feel about this horrific incident? Aware that the world changed significantly forever, I contemplated how this new threat to us, our country, our peace would impact their innocent hearts, brains, loves, lives. Would they embrace fear or bravery? Would they withstand paranoia or tolerance? Would they have the chance to experience any rightful life ahead, as we all had been blessed and privileged with until that despairingly fateful morning? I pray(ed) fervently for their well-being, safety and shelter from all undeserved hostility.

Roger H. Weiss
SAIC, Technical Integration Specialist
ISS Payloads Office

Last September, I was a student anticipating joining the NASA team. When the Boeing 767 struck the first of the Twin Towers, I was in shock then fear. When the second plane hit, the future I had imagined so many times disappeared. The entire country united that day with one common goal: To protect our lives and our freedom. As I talked with the other engineering students about to graduate, all we could wonder is: What does this mean for the future? Do we need to join the military, start working in industry to build new weapons or something else?

Lisa A. Tidwell
NASA, Cooperative Education Student
Office of Public Affairs

Shock, dismay, unbelievable anger, then a gut-wrenching sorrow that brought tears. Knowing those who died would not be the last. Even now this is almost impossible to write about. The hot flash of righteous anger still burns at those that could destroy instead of build. Just look around here on site and see all of the friendly smiles and handshakes, with what has been accomplished and what we will accomplish in the future, then tell me that good will not triumph over evil.

Bill Holmes Jr.
RJV, Production Manager
Structural Engineering Division

9/11 was the first time adults and children of the United States had the fear of the unknown since the Bay of Pigs in the 1960s. Would it be like it was in World War II, when families were separated never to see or touch their loved ones again? Slowly, we have returned to "normal," but we still have the ache and fear in our hearts for the next time. Only with the prayers of God's children will this nation continue to stand and be the land of the free. "God Bless America."

Sharyn Lee Willis
NASA, Travel Claims Group Lead
FMD/GBTech

9/11 touched all of our lives! We may not have known the men and women personally who died, but our hearts ached for those lost and their families. My son, a Marine Reservist, was in school that tragic day. He received a call from his unit that they were being called up. He and others in his unit had to drop out of their college semester to serve. I might add, they were glad to do it... anything to protect our country!

Truda Furr
NASA, Human Resources Specialist
Human Resources Office

At first it seemed so unreal that no one quite understood what they were seeing. Those of us who were military veterans thought that we were watching the start of another war (and so we were). Fear and total confusion gripped the room. But, the real fear set in when we heard the Center was shutting down and that we must all leave immediately. Suddenly, the horror we had been watching came to our doorsteps! I have not felt fear like that since my first day in Viet Nam. I just didn't know what was going to happen now.

Jack Baston
SAIC, Internet Applications Developer
Mission Operations Directorate

On 9/11 a coworker called and told me a plane flew into the World Trade Center. I saw that the TV was on in the hall just as the second plane hit the south tower. I saw by the banking of the plane at impact that we were witnessing a mass terrorist act. I got on the phone with my brother in New York who works uptown and travels to the WTC for meetings. He lost several hundred from his company, in the north tower, and three on a plane. We are lucky his two kids still have a dad.

John D. McKenna
United Space Alliance, Cargo Avionics
and Software Engineer
Operations Division

I am grateful to live in a country whose government respects and protects individual liberties but whose governmental design allows it to deal effectively with such cowardly acts. I am grateful for a President and other leaders who had the resolve to use the law enforcement and military resources of our country to send a powerful message to terrorists and the world that our system will not be undermined. I am grateful for our emergency responders and to our military for executing their roles and assignments thoroughly and without hesitation. I am grateful to be an American.

Wilber R. Boykin
NASA, Chief Information Officer
Program Integration Office

The week of 9/11 found me in Forsyth, Missouri, with my parents, two sisters and a niece. On television they cut to the first tower in flames. We watched in shock as the second plane crashed into the other tower. Our thoughts were of those innocent people in the towers who didn't know what was happening. As we returned to Texas, American flags were flying everywhere. In a small Arkansas town at dusk, people were gathered by the highway holding candles and waving flags. I've never been more proud and thankful for living in such a great, caring country.

Lori Wheaton
IMPASS, Protocol Coordinator
Office of Public Affairs

It is beyond my comprehension how people could be so filled with hate. They boarded planes full of people they had never laid eyes on before. They used those unsuspecting people in carrying out plans to crash into buildings filled with other unsuspecting people, whom they also

had never laid eyes on before. Being so consumed with hatred that you are willing to die in the name of it, and take people you do not know with you, is beyond my comprehension.

Lela T. Walker
Kelsey-Seybold, Quality Assurance Coordinator
Environmental Health Laboratory

The 9/11 attack made me feel vulnerable and somewhat afraid. I realized that like other countries having terror in their own cities, we are now on the list. Never again will we be 100 percent safe. We now know that we have enemies who mean us great harm. The 9/11 event has made me feel great sorrow for New York City. I think they must worry daily about when the next terrorist attack will occur, but I know in my heart that if we pray for our leaders, God's blessing will make the USA a safe and great nation again.

Phillip W. Good
Lockheed Martin, Associate Engineer
Space and Life Sciences Division

We had returned to our small, rural western England hotel in mid-afternoon, at the very moment the attacks on New York and Washington had begun. From our isolation, we would watch the entire attack on CNN. The British people sensed our needs, and responded in a magnificent fashion to meet them all: Lodging, transportation, medicines, whatever we needed. Attending services at Westminster Abbey, we saw tears of sympathy from our fellow worshipers. Although we have been to England many times, this was the time when we truly got to know the real English people. We will always cherish this memory.

Humboldt C. Mandell, Jr., Ph.D.
NASA, Advanced Development Office
Engineering Directorate

I concluded, in my youth, the military in Hawaii on December 7, 1941, must've been negligent, allowing the Japanese to fly into history undetected, thinking it was an American bomber formation. I just knew if I was there, I would have done better, recognizing this was an attack on America! I stand humbled. I missed it, too, on September 11th. We need to recognize that we are vulnerable to attack, despite our wish to be safe and secure. We must be vigilant, and never waiver in our faith in God, our respect for life and our duty to expunge evil.

Thomas E. Diegelman
NASA, Technology Account Manager
Technology Transfer and Commercialization Office

My life was touched by the comfort and condolences that other countries gave us. 9/11 taught me that we are deeply hated; but more importantly, it taught me that we are genuinely loved.

Laurie Y. Carrillo
NASA, Planetary Scientist
Space and Life Sciences Directorate

I was in California on ISS business when I awoke just in time to see the second plane crash. The disbelief and bewilderment is indescribable. It was nearly impossible to perform the audit paperwork that day while the images of death and destruction were displayed on a huge screen in our work area. I regretted being stranded 1,600 miles away from my wife and 9-year-old son in such disturbing times.

E-mail and telephone alleviated some of the sense of isolation and helplessness. I focused on the fact that my son's father was going to return home; many other fathers weren't.

Del A Murphy
GHG Corp., H/W Quality Engineer
ISS Safety and Mission Assurance

I thought the plane that hit the first Twin Tower was a Cessna, not a 767. My father-in-law was traveling through Pennsylvania at the time of the crash there. I was sent home and I was alone. I turned on the TV to get the latest scoop. My mother-in-law told me my father-in-law was all right and that no relatives in D.C. were hurt. I was so worried that Houston was going to be next. I was so glad when my husband and daughter came home. I never felt so helpless in my life.

Stacey E. Morrison
NASA, Deputy CIO
Space and Life Sciences Directorate

We became the leader of the world when Communism failed. 9/11 goes beyond my urge of retaliation. President Bush believes, "America is such a force for good around the world, yet we hear messages from other nations that they don't see what the American people see in our country." Why do other nations see us as arrogant, self-indulgent, hypocritical, inattentive and unwilling or unable to engage in cross-cultural dialogue? Waving flags and killing more terrorists will not erase 9/11. We need to be more pragmatic in dealing with the needs of all people, not just those in the United States.

David M. Leung
NASA, Thermal Engineer
Space Station Unpressurized Elements

After coordinating the "Remember the Children Toy Drive" with local businesses, I drove to New York to deliver the toys. The authorities took me into Ground Zero to see the devastation. A police officer started asking me detailed questions about the Toy Drive. Seeing my puzzled look, he explained that the workers wanted to hear details about other people working to benefit the victims. Yes, the Toy Drive benefited the children whose parents were killed. Unexpectedly, it also helped by giving the workers another positive story. You never know how your "good deed" effort will impact unforeseen people.

Mark McDonald
NASA, Project Manager
Biomedical Systems Division

Although a graduation I was to attend was rescheduled, I definitely think 9/11 was a graduation, which reinforced two things for me. First, we all have a short time here on Earth. So, we better work to release all the distractions of the world, get grounded in who we are and determine what our passions in life are (what gives us life/energy/grace while we are here) and pursue them. Second, I think 9/11 reinforced a lesson from Mother Teresa who, when asked if she got discouraged in her work, said it was her job to be "faithful, not successful."

Kimberly L. Grayson
NASA, Project Control Assistant
Automation, Robotics and Simulation Division

I was in Salt Lake City supporting the Benefits of Space Exhibit when I watched the second plane slam into the second tower. All I could think of at the time was the lives snuffed and wondering where it was going to end. However, my solo drive home from Salt Lake City allowed me to see the response of small towns and cities all across Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

Red, white and blue were everywhere. This reaffirmed what I knew in my heart – America is strengthened whenever challenged by adversity. Eagles soar when storms threaten.

Ron Montague
NASA, Safety Engineer
JSC Safety and Test Operations Division

I did not lose anyone that I know in 9/11, though a friend escape Tower II before it fell. His story brought this disaster home to me and I went to NYC to pay my respects. When I landed in the city, I felt affection for the people. New Yorkers are so strong, so resilient and yet so vulnerable. A native New Yorker took me to Ground Zero and we were allowed onto the viewing platform early one morning. Alone on the platform, we prayed and cried. Though scarred, I felt an aura of protection and healing around the site.

Judith Sanders
NASA, Human Resource Development Representative
Human Resource Development Office

I am a NY native. My sister works for the NYC Department of Corrections. 9/11 started normally. My sister and I try to wish each other a good day if there's time. She e-mailed stating a small plane just hit the South Tower. My brother Joe was flying out of NYC. At the time I did not know if he was on any of those hijacked planes. Late in the evening I heard from my frantic sister, who had just witnessed both towers collapsing and bodies falling from the towers. As for Joe, I got word his plane was rerouted.

Marie Lopes
MEI, BL/Science & Analysis Procurement

Terror no longer exists in my life. It was killed on 9/11 by those who wanted my life to suffocate in it. I don't even call the perps that t-word anymore. I don't even use the word. Now, they're just "enemies" or "thugs." They're not pro-anything; they are anti-civilization. After raising kids and helping others raise theirs, it's all too easy to recognize just another form of manipulative aggression, extortion and blackmail by immature persons. Absolute resistance – with wisdom and, sometimes, force – is the only remedy. So I continue to work on the ground floor of a high-rise.

Martin Maier
Anteon Corporation, Program Manager
JSC Export Services Team

After working in building 32A for 15 years, our group was transferred to the NBL. That morning (9/11) as we were packing, our television in the break room revealed the horror that took place that day. During the rest of the week as we moved, we had forgotten how sad we were to be leaving building 32A. The last day that we finished packing, we turned out the lights and the only light that was on was in the break room. It was eerie to see the light and think about what had happened that day in the break room.

Bruce E. Adams
Johnson Engineering, Neutral Buoyancy Lab
Office Manufacturing Lead
Sonny Carter Training Facility

I am still in complete disbelief that such a thing could happen in "the Land of the Free." I have realized that "Culture Matters!" I mean the way of thinking, way of life and way of worship matters. Life would never be the same. There was a time when people were trusted. I am convinced that any society that ignores the fundamental

principles of harmonious society – i.e., democracy, empowerment of women and life-oriented education of masses – is bound to breed terrorists, religious fanatics, autocrats and will deprive the people of their most fundamental right, that is, freedom!

Nikhil Mehta
Barrios Technology, Inc., Senior Systems Analyst
VMDB Team

I mages of a thousand voices crying out together one last time remain lodged in my mind. The absolute devastation and merciless waste of precious human life makes one reflect on the misguided emphasis placed on superficial and insignificant concerns. What's really important is making opportunities to tell spouses, family, friends and neighbors how we feel – too often we take for granted others know we care. And what's really important is patriotism, not just during times of crisis, but a real sense of nationalism, which inspires us all to be, feel and act "American" everyday. Keep waving those flags, USA!

Major Tony Smith
NASA, Deputy Director
DoD Human Spaceflight Payloads

How do I forget such sadness and loss? How do I forgive such evil? How do I begin to understand the irrational behavior of my own species? I can never forget, but I try not to hate as they did. September 11th has made me realize how very precious every moment is! It's made me more "aware" and, yes, it has introduced an element of fear for the unpredictable. Thankfully, it offers the opportunity with my children and friends to discuss the "one constant" who has, and will always be, there for us for comfort and peace, our Heavenly Father.

S. Kelley Williams
GHG, Travel Coordinator, Move Coordinator
& IRM Corp. Rep. for Independent Assurance

9/10 is my parents' anniversary and my younger sister's birthday. 9/11 was always just "the day after." Now though, it's taken on a whole new meaning. So this year, like so many before, on 9/10 I will send good wishes to my family. I will also thank my lucky stars for still having loved ones to send wishes to. On 9/11, I will be thinking of those whose loved ones perished. And along with those thoughts, I will again thank my lucky stars for having been able to send wishes "the day before."

Vicki Haxethorne
IMPASS, Imagery Cataloger
Spaceflight Imagery Review Facility

I have served for 29 years as a paramedic in a local volunteer EMS organization and I am part of that community, so the loss of Fire and EMS folks at the WTC really hit home. One of my fellow paramedics was picked to go to the WTC site after 9/11 as a medic for two weeks. Her personal recounting of events there and her photos were simply astounding. She brought back so many uplifting stories of the human effort there that one could not help but be touched and feel a renewed faith in the American Spirit.

Alfred B. Mercier
United Space Alliance, Senior Software Specialist
Spaceflight Training Division

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The 9/11 tragedy was meant for evil but it turned out to be good for Americans. This tragedy brought this country to a new focus and a bonding of Spirits. We became that "One nation under God with liberty and justice for all." I saw such an outpouring of love among races, colors and creeds. We were no longer fighting among ourselves but for our country. America will always be the land that I love.

*Julia A. Belton
SAIC, Senior Mechanical Technician
Receiving, Inspection, Testing Facility*

I grew up in New York City. I saw the Twin Towers built. I was in New York City in July 2001. I stood between the towers at night, leaned my head back and marveled at the sight. I didn't take an elevator ride to the top of the towers during that trip. Why? I had been up there once before and they'd always be around. I could have lost a dozen people that I grew up with that day. They were just lucky that they were somewhere else. I'll never take anything for granted again.

*John J. Zipay
NASA, Systems Engineer
Space Launch Initiative Project Office*

We were at a vendor plant in Pennsylvania for a Critical Design Review just 90 miles from New York City when events began to unfold. It was difficult to concentrate on the remainder of the meeting. It was hard to believe all that was happening as we watched the news reports that night. We had our rental car and made the fortunate decision not to turn it back in. The car was a bright green Ford Mustang. We made arrangements to drive the Mustang back to Houston. The three-day drive down the East Coast was very nice.

*George Fletcher
GHG Corporation, Senior System Safety Engineer
Safety & Mission Assurance*

I first heard about the tragedy on the way to work. My wife called and told me the unbelievable story about airplanes hitting buildings. My first response, besides shock, was to pray; pray for the victims, their families. Also to pray for the President. My most earnest prayer was that many people in this nation would come together in a turning back to God, our only hope and strength. I am thankful that we have a President who is not ashamed to claim a dependence on God, and called upon Him to help our nation in this time of tragedy.

*Alex Quinones
GHG Corporation, Software Engineering
Technical Lead /CSOC
Mission Operations Directorate*

As I was watching the replays of the planes running into the WTC towers, I heard a loud boom. I looked out the window to see a billow of smoke rising from the Pentagon. Still in shock from watching the news, I had a feeling of disbelief, panic and fear running through me all at once. Volunteers with medical/first-aid experience were asked to get on a bus to render aid to those wounded. Being on the site was numbing to the body and mind. I will never forget that day.

*Christopher M. Boenker
Johnson Engineering, Dive Operations Tech 1
Neutral Buoyancy Lab*

I realized my perception of my and my family's safety was obviously naive. I saw something I knew: That the strength, will and fortitude of the American people will, even in times of horrific tragedy, forever be the envy of the world. However, on a more personal level, the method the terrorists used seared the daylight out of me. I am a commercial airline pilot's wife. Fortunately, he was home at the time. When the planes started flying again, I had to pull myself up by my bootstraps, kiss my husband goodbye and be strong for myself and my family.

*Karen Walsemann
NASA, International Training Engineer
Mission Operations Directorate*

Since the unforgettable day of September 11, I have changed my life to be more appreciative to what time God has given us. My patriotism has grown. A tear is shed when I hear the National Anthem. My family and I have turned to the church. I've regained appreciation for the small details that used to go unnoticed. I don't have much, but I have realized that I have more than most. This has prompted me to make the most out of my life and to give as much as I can to better someone else's life.

*Rita Ann Alaniz
Johnson Engineering, Program Data
Administrator
Space and Life Sciences Directorate*

Flight Control Teams were involved in simulations and real-time support of ISS ops. We were mulling over what to do with the simulation when we got word of the Pentagon being hit. Our decision was easy...terminate the activity. I then spent time conferring with JSC management about vacating the MCC. There were no known threats; however, we quietly and efficiently moved the operation. The look in the eyes of the team was one expressing defiance of what was done to our country and a determination that we were going to continue to do our job and do it well!

*J. Milt Hefflin
NASA, Chief
Flight Director Office*

I couldn't keep the quiver out of my voice when I told 150 STEP students, including (future Center Director) Lt. Gen. Jefferson Davis Howell, Jr., the nation was under attack. We started class before the story broke so no one had a clue. The looks on their faces will be with me forever. None of us will be that naive again. I watched Gen. Howell change from genial Program Manager to soldier as I spoke. Center Director Roy Estess, Bill Parsons and the rest did an outstanding job responding - especially since this wasn't expected. I feel more comfortable knowing the General's in charge if anything else should happen.

*Stacey A. Menard
NASA, Safety and Test
Operations Division*

They say the whole is more than just the sum of its parts; but for me, with respect to the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, these parts were the very defining essence of New York City and the place that I call home. I was born in Brooklyn, in the shadow of these futuristic steel titans, and worked there for many years. Now the fond memories of friends, coworkers, and old schoolmates are forever

tarnished by an act of hatred. A piece of my past has been violently ripped away, and nothing can undo this.

*Wayne Matrejek
United Space Alliance, Computer Science Staff
Flight Avionics Division*

I was at Mission Control supporting ISS operations that morning as an Ops Planner. I had come off the overnight shift when the towers were hit. I hastily left to get home. The Pentagon was hit as I was driving. I received a call later saying I was critical to operations and I would have to come in to MCC that night. Before I left that evening, my young daughter asked, "Daddy, if you go to work, will your building be on fire, too?" I remember that was a very, very long drive in from Friendswood that night.

*Christopher E. Leslie
United Space Alliance, ISS/Operations Planner
Mission Operations Directorate*

In the grand scheme of life, this terrible tragedy might teach us the value of time, our lives, loved ones and freedom. Policemen and firefighters displayed the grit that heroes are made of on 9/11. Their bravery allowed them to treat others with respect and kindness. Respect and kindness to each other eliminates the negativity that sometimes surrounds us. It takes less energy to be positive. Energy that is used to be unkind or negative is reflected back on the person. Remember: what touches me, touches you.

*Bobbie Walsh
Kelsey-Seybold, Registered Nurse
Kelsey-Seybold Clinic*

Watching the Twin Towers fall to Earth crushed more than metal, glass and helpless human flesh. It flattened both my sense of a planable future and my ability to delay dreams. I moved closer (physically and emotionally) to my family. I ended a five-year relationship that stimulated no growth in either of us. I traveled extensively to experience diverse cultures - airplane flights are much less frightening than the road rage on the Gulf Freeway! When tomorrow comes I will be financially prepared, but I now actively strive to fulfill the longings of my "future" before I sleep each night.

*Michael E. Evans
NASA
Flight Design Requirements and Integration Office*

The events of September 11, 2001, made me realize how very precious life is, how very much I love my country and how very proud I am to be an American! It also made me realize that one never knows what may occur tomorrow, next week or next year. However, whatever does occur, I believe that each and every one of us is now prepared to fight for our country in an effort to preserve what we enjoy as Americans every day - our very precious freedom!!

*Laura L. Jackson
NASA, Secretary to Sharon Delp
Projects Procurement*

If it was possible, 9/11 made my 3-year-old daughter even more precious to me. I wanted to immediately surround myself with my family, to look them in the eye and reassure myself that my little corner of the world was "OK." Clichéd as it sounds by now, it renewed in me a fierce pride of being an American, and all the blessings that entails. Amongst those blessings are the many freedoms we as American

Continued on page 7...

citizens take for granted. Freedom to have my daughter educated, not hidden away in fear. Unlimited possibilities and opportunities we can all take advantage of.

*Tracey Shafer
Dynaacs, Technical Specialist
ISS Mission Support Group*

“You should live each day as if it were your last,” became a reality. Today may be our last opportunity to express our love, appreciation and respect. It may be our last opportunity to share laughter, friendship and sympathy. I kiss my husband goodbye. I take every opportunity to hug my children and tell them I love them. I’m grateful for family and friendships and make efforts to express my appreciation. My faith is renewed, my patriotism has been resurrected; the price and value of freedom are precious to me. The people who protect us are real-life HEROES.

*Shar Dunn-Vochoska
Wyle Laboratories Inc.
Biotechnology Cell Science Department*

Where my wife and I were (Washington D.C.), what we were doing and how our plans changed (we had plane reservations for the 12th) are just background. What was important was hearing from family members in D.C. and New York that they were OK, and being able to let people know we were OK. Later that week, we went to the National Mall where the flags were at half-staff, and quietly reflected on how blessed we were to have freedom and family that was safe, and how sad we were for people who could not say the same thing.

*Bradford O. Mudgett, Jr.
NASA, Personnel Programs Analyst
Human Resources Training & Development Branch*

At NASA Headquarters, we watched the reports on TV when we heard the Pentagon had been hit. We looked out the window and saw the smoke. There was no widespread panic, but there was a distinct aura of fear. I remember thinking maybe this was how Palestinians and Israelis feel every moment of their lives. That night, asleep in my hotel room, I woke up to the smell of smoke – at first sleepily annoyed by an imagined cigarette odor, then suddenly seared wide-awake as I recognized the wet, smoldering smell of the burning Pentagon for what it really was.

*Michael J. Manering
NASA, Technical Manager
Space Communications Integration Office*

I remember passing the dorm lobby TV and freezing. Disbelief, numbness and shock list only a few feelings experienced within that hour of horrific news briefings. I hadn’t known anyone in the immediate area, yet just thinking about each victim’s family and friends’ loss had made me solemn and pessimistic. Quickly rallying behind New York, though, the spirit of unity and hope really shined through and illuminated my outlook. Now, when I see American flags flying beautifully on top of buildings or gracing windows, not merely deep sympathy emerges in remembrance, but also renewed appreciation for our nation.

*Joy C. Hsu
NASA, Contract Specialist
Projects Procurement Office*

My first thought of such a misfortune was “How could anyone have so much hatred that lives had to be taken this way?” For weeks, I felt a sense of pain, loss and sorrow. It’s almost one year later, and when I think about what those people did, I still cry because of the pain, loss (disregard for human life) and sorrow. I just really don’t understand, I’m still puzzled by it all. Maybe one day, it will be revealed to us why this really happened.

*Wanda R. Lee
NASA, Secretary
Mission Operations Directorate*

I was stunned, then saddened and then ANGRY. I was one of the fortunate to get to take an active roll in the healing process. I was to go to Spain for my annual active Naval Reserve time just one week after the attack. Everyone has a part in our ongoing national defense. Bear in mind that it will be an endless endeavor. I hope all have had an opportunity for closure and are back on track, supporting our great nation in whatever way you can. Allow time to heal, but never forget.

*Tim P. Cooper
Lockheed Martin /Aerotek
Petty Officer USN(R)*

Today as the one-year anniversary approaches, I still think about those brave men and women. Firefighters and police who worked so valiantly to save the people in the towers, and many lost their lives in the process. My perspective on life certainly has changed quite a bit, and I don’t take things for granted today as I did before. This made me realize that I need to make the most of each day and not dwell on the negative things. We never know when our last day will be, so it’s important to make the most out of every day we are here.

*Pam Rogers
Hernandez Engineering, Inc., Customer Support
Room Coordinator*

We’d left Newport, R.I., that Sunday, for Charleston, S.C., in a 41-foot sailboat. Monday we were off New York. Distant Twin Towers glittered in the morning sun. On Tuesday, Sept. 11, after a passage up Chesapeake Bay, we were at an Intracoastal Waterway lock in southern Virginia. “Something terrible happened,” the keeper shouted. “Turn on your TV.” Repeatedly, we saw the planes, and the towers collapse into dust. We went back offshore at Beaufort, N.C., for an overnight sail to Charleston. There waterside nightlife was uncharacteristically muted, spiritless, half-hearted. Something basic had changed. The world we’d sailed from was gone.

*John Ira Petty
NASA, Public Affairs Specialist
Office of Public Affairs*

True fulfillment in life begins and ends in Christ. “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under Heaven given to men by which we can be saved.” Acts 4:12

*Jean Anderson
Lockheed Martin, Secretary
Electronics Systems Test Laboratory*

As tragic the events of 9/11 are, my memories are of relief. The hours after the attack were nerve-wracking. My uncles – FDNY Captain Tom Riley and NYPD Officer Peter Clark – and many friends are NYPD/FDNY members. Late that evening, my family members had been accounted for; those who were scheduled to be in the city that day had luck on their side. We have lost many friends and those who worked at Ground Zero are permanently changed, but I feel blessed because my family is still whole. My heart goes out to all who lost loved ones on 9/11.

*Carly Rohrig
Lockheed Martin, Node 2/3 Engineering Integration
ISS Vehicle Office*

9/11 touched my life with truth of the word of God, man was not created to rule himself apart from God. O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself, nor to direct his steps. (Jeremiah 10:23) The nations should unite and reverence our Creator. Scripture says, “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. (II Chronicles 7:14) 9/11 touched my life, by acknowledging God.

*Katie M. Maltese
MEA, Patent Counsel Office
Technology Transfer Commercialization*

Many images come alive: Planes flying too close to buildings, flames shooting everywhere, the sound of complete silence after thousands of people scream out in terror simultaneously. My first thought was, “There are people on that plane!” Stunned, I went to class that morning and then drove home to my parents with the radio on, and prayed. When I got home, all we could do was cry. What does 9/11 mean to me? A surge of patriotism. Utter senselessness. A generation of Americans suddenly given a reason to salute the flag and sing praise of a great nation. God bless America.

*Kelly Halacka
NASA, Cooperative Education Student
Biomedical Systems Division*

9/11 was my first day certified to operate solo on console as an ISS Operations Planner. Shortly after handover, the ISS Flight Control Team watched the second plane hit the tower live while trying to support “nominal” ISS operations. We were fortunately able to uplink the following day’s plan early and support the crew nominally through an off-nominal situation. All prior to evacuation to a safe location where we could not uplink. This was worse than any simulation, and the teamwork that was shown throughout the team made a lasting impression on me that I will never forget.

*Tracy A. Scott
United Space Alliance, ISS Operations
Planning Flight Controller
Mission Operations Directorate*

EDITOR’S NOTE: Russ Strachan shared a portion of an e-mail he received from his brother on 9/13. His brother is an auxiliary New York Police Department officer. “It put my concerns for him to rest,” Strachan said about the e-mail.

I’m OK – got down to the center right after the second plane hit. Couple close calls with collapses but I am alive, well and in one piece. Been putting in 18-hour days and haven’t been home. Work there is slow and tedious – yesterday was doing crime scene and recovery – not pretty. We are going to be going down to 12-hour shifts so as not to burn out. Going to be a long process. Stay safe out there.

*Russ Strachan
SAIC, Senior Systems Engineer
Independent Assurance Office*

I remember watching with shock and sadness as those commandeered airplanes crashed into the World Trade Center Towers and the Pentagon. My prayers continue for the relatives of those who died that day, especially for children who lost their parents. The events of September 11 remind me of how fortunate I am to live in this great country that our visionary Founding Fathers so wisely established, and how lucky I am to share in the many liberties they set forth. I am also reminded of how quickly those liberties can vanish lest they are stringently safeguarded.

William P. Jeffs
NASA, Public Affairs Specialist
Office of Public Affairs

I am an officer in the Navy Reserve and arrived at the Naval War College in Newport, R.I., for my annual reserve training on Sept. 10, 2001. I watched the second WTC tower fall on TV. Several officers with me were recalled to the Pentagon, and one man's wife was killed there. I was very proud to be able to serve my country at that time. All the officers in my class watched the base flag raised every morning at sunrise for the next two weeks.

Robert B. Powers
United Space Alliance, Engineering Staff
Guidance and Control Systems

Our department had 11 travelers off site, which caused me some measure of anxiety as department secretary. My college course, Experimental Methods in Psychology, had recently begun. The Experiment hypothesis changed after the attack, when I realized that family/close friends offer a strong social support, which helps during crisis situations. *Attack on America 9-11: Do Family/Close Friend Support and Intrusive Thoughts Predict Psychological Stress?* involved 25 coworkers who willingly participated, giving me excellent results, which showed intrusive thoughts were a strong predictor of stress. I appreciated our coworkers' discussions and the mutual emotional support, which helped me cope with 9/11.

Denise S. Barrett
Honeywell Technology Solutions, Inc., Secretary 4
Laboratories Department, White Sands Test Facility

September 11 was a very devastating tragedy for so many, many people and it made me realize how vulnerable our country is. We always hear about this happening in other countries and think it will never happen here... but it did! I think it united our nation more and strengthened the spirit of patriotism.

Also, I feel it was a wake-up call from our Creator. I think we take so much for granted here and don't really appreciate what our forefathers struggled so hard to give us.

Beverly J. Spiller
IMPASS, Graphics and Imagery Services
Graphics and Publications

I picked up my kids from school and explained to them what was happening. My husband was out of the country, but we communicated all day by cell phone. He directed us to buy emergency supplies, not knowing what would happen next. Then we went to church for a prayer vigil. I spent days on the couch watching CNN, barely sleeping. My family kept in contact for reassurance. I bought a flag for my car. The events of 9/11 brought sadness, pride and admiration for the heroes who responded, but also a renewed faith in God and stronger patriotism.

Cheryl R. Andrews
NASA, Hardware/Software Manager
Flight Design and Dynamics Division

I grew up in NJ, in one of the towns hardest hit on 9/11. My first thoughts that morning were of cars that would be left at train stations, families waiting for word from loved ones, my friends and acquaintances who would be counted as dead, missing or survivors, and how the NYC skyline was forever changed. I visited Ground Zero in January, walking the perimeter, taking photos, visiting with locals, stopping at all the makeshift memorials. When the towers toppled, my heart broke in two, etching in my memory and my heart the day when my world changed forever.

Ellen A. Gillis
United Space Alliance, Publicist
JSC Astronaut Appearances Office

The attacks that struck America's soul affected me in many ways, but mostly one word comes to mind: Perspective. Looking to the past, I gain perspective on the present and the future. I acquired a deepened respect for the bareness of humanity and the fragility of life. Never will I forgo my family, never will I forgo my friends, never will I forgo my neighbors, my country and never, ever my freedom.

Amiko Nevills
NASA, Directoric Secretary
Office of Technology Transfer and Commercialization



David M. Russell, an IMPASS senior graphics illustrator here at Johnson Space Center, created the patriotic artwork on this page, as well as the stunning interpretation of Jerry Woodfill holding the American flag on the front cover of this special edition.

Why did Russell draw the image shown here, after 9/11? "Stunned for more than a day at the images that continued to flash in repetition across our television screens, a feeling of helplessness clutched at all of us," Russell said.

"Finally, an image of smoke pouring from the site and drifting aimlessly out and over the East River looked to me as if an enormous bird was slowly lifting its wings and rising from the ashes, determined to find the culprits. Not a phoenix, but an eagle – the American Eagle – taking flight to avenge this awful attack on our country."



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